

Appl. No. 09/450,551  
Amdt. dated July 18, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3, 6, and 11 as follows:

1. (currently amended): An electronic price label operating independently of an external power source and wirelessly communicating information with a communication base station, the communication base station wirelessly transmitting a status request to the electronic price label to perform a status request dependent diagnostic test, the electronic price label comprising;  
a battery for powering the electronic price label independent of an external controller;  
memory for storing price information;  
an interface for receiving the price information for storage;  
a display for displaying the price information; and  
a processor being powered by the battery and adapted to control operation of the memory, the interface and the display, the processor being operative to perform one or more independent diagnostic tests independent of the communication base station according to a predetermined schedule on one or more of the memory, the interface and the display, the processor being further operative to report a detected failure of one or more of the independent diagnostic tests, ~~said processor operative to perform said diagnostic tests and report the detected failure independent of a status request transmitted to the electronic price label from a central computer.~~

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2. (currently amended): The label of claim 1 and also including an audible and visual alert signal for providing an audible and visual alert upon direction from the processor upon failure of one or more of the independent diagnostic tests.

3. (currently amended): The label of claim 2 ~~and also including a battery and wherein~~ the one or more independent diagnostic tests include a test on the battery, the diagnostic tests being operative to isolate a fault occurring in the battery.

4. (original): The label of claim 3 wherein the interface includes a radio transmitter and receiver and is operative to transmit information describing the status of the label.

5. (original): The label of claim 4 wherein the label is operative to periodically transmit a signal indicating that the label is operating normally.

6. (currently amended): An electronic price label system for use in a retail establishment, the electronic price label system comprising:

a central processor for maintaining price and other information relating to a plurality of retail items; and

a plurality of labels operative to wirelessly communicate with the central processor, each label having a memory, an interface, ~~and a display, and a battery for independently powering said label independent of an external power source~~, the labels being operative to display information based on information received from the central processor, each of the labels being operative to perform internal self-diagnostic tests according to a predetermined schedule on the memory, the interface and the display, the internal self-diagnostic tests being independent of a status request transmitted by the central processor,

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each of the plurality of labels being further operative to report a detected failure of one or more of the internal self-diagnostic tests independent of a status request issued-transmitted by the central processor, and provide an alert or indication reporting failure of the self-diagnostic test.

7. (original): The system of claim 6 wherein the alert includes an audible and visual alert.

8. (original): The system of claim 7 wherein each of the labels is operative to transmit status information to the central processor.

9. (original): The system of claim 8 wherein each of the labels includes a transmitter and wherein the alert includes a signal transmitted to the central processor reporting failure of the self-diagnostic test.

10. (original): The system of claim 9 wherein the status information includes a normal operation signal periodically transmitted by each label to the central processor during normal operation of the label and wherein the central processor notes failure of a label if the normal operation signal is not received as expected.

11. (currently amended): A method of self-diagnosis of failures in an electronic price display system, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing communication between a central processor and a plurality of electronic price labels, each of said plurality of electronic price labels having a battery to independently supply its own operating power independent of an external power source;

periodically performing a self-diagnostic test on each of the electronic price labels independent of a status request issued by the central processor;

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reporting each fault detected by the self-diagnostic test to the central processor if the detected fault does not preclude accurate reporting of the fault; and

providing an error indication if the detected fault precludes accurate reporting of the fault to the central processor.

12. (original): The method of claim 11 and also including the step of periodically transmitting a status request from the central processor to each of the plurality of electronic labels and returning responses from each of the electronic labels to the central processor.

13. (original): The method of claim 12 and also including the step of interpreting the responses received from each of the labels to determine whether a fault exists in the label and to determine the identity of the fault.

14. (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the self-diagnostic label determines whether a failure disables the electronic price label from accurately reporting the failure and wherein the label ceases transmitting signals to the central processor in the event that a failure occurs which disables the electronic price label from reporting the failure.

Please add the following new claims.

15. (new): The electronic price label of claim 1 wherein the wireless communication is passive.

16. (new): The electronic price label of claim 1 wherein the one or more independent diagnostic tests include a battery level test.

17. (new): The electronic price label of claim 1 wherein the one or more independent diagnostic tests include a stuck button test.

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18. (new): The electronic price label system of claim 6 wherein the internal self-diagnostic tests include a battery level test.

19. (new): The electronic price label system of claim 6 wherein the internal self-diagnostic tests include a battery level test.

20. (new): The electronic price label system of claim 6 wherein the internal self-diagnostic tests include a stuck button test.